IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims

1.   (currently amended)An information searching method comprising the steps of:

inputting a search inquiry character train;

forming a summary ~~by using~~word list based on said search inquiry character train ~~and forming a summary word list~~;

inputting a restricting condition for narrowing down search targets;

searching ~~by using~~ a document database to select documents having ~~on the basis of the~~ similarity with said summary word list;

examining adaptability of ~~a~~each selected document to determine whether the selected document satisfies ~~or not satisfying~~ said restricting condition; and

outputting as search results documents that satisfy ~~adapted to~~ said restricting condition among ~~results of said~~documents selected according to the similarity based ~~on the~~ search performed by said searching step.

2.   (currently amended)   A method according to claim 1, wherein said restricting condition is an indispensable word which is indispensable for ~~the~~a search target or a taboo word, or a combination of indispensable words and taboo words.

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3.   (original)   A method according to claim 1, wherein said restricting condition is a search logical expression.

4.   (currently amended)A method according to claim 1, wherein a word used for said restricting condition in positive contents are-is also used as a keyword for an associative search.

5.   (currently amended)A method according to claim 1, wherein in said step of examining said adaptability, whether said restricting condition is satisfied or not is discriminated with respect to each document selected by said the search result searched in said associative searching step.

6.   (currently amended)A method according to claim 1, wherein in said searching step, a document which is similar to said summary word list satisfies said restricting condition is selected searched from said document database and its adaptability is examined based on said restricting condition and, thereafter, a similarity between the document which satisfies the adaptability and said summary word list is calculated, then searching is done based on the basis of the similarity.

7.   (currently amended)A method according to claim 1, wherein in said step of forming said summary word list, said summary word list is formed from said search inquiry character train and selected source documents.

8.   (currently amended)An information search system comprising:

an input frame for inputting a search inquiry character train;

a frame for inputting a restricting condition for narrowing down search targets;

means for forming a summary ~~by using~~word list based on said search inquiry character train ~~and forming a summary word list~~;

a search button for searching ~~by using~~ a document database of an information searching apparatus to select documents based on ~~the basis of~~ said summary word list, said search button instructing said information searching apparatus to search in accordance with depression of said search button; and

a search result display frame which receives from said information searching apparatus a search result including selected documents that have searched and selected based on said summary list and have been examined and determined to satisfy ~~searched by using said document database and~~ said restricting condition and ~~display~~displays said search result.

9.   (currently amended)A system according to claim 8, wherein the frame for displaying the search result ~~searched by using said document database~~ and the frame for inputting said restricting condition are displayed in parallel onto a same display screen.

10.   (currently amended)A searching server for searching for information, comprising:

importance calculating means for calculating importance of each word among words appearing in a document set based on ~~the basis of the~~a

frequency of each word in the document set and in ~~said~~ a document database;

summary word candidate holding means for holding ~~the~~ words, as candidates, of ~~the~~ high importance as calculated by said importance calculating means;

a summary word list which is formed as a summary of ~~said~~ a search inquiry character train and selected source documents ~~being formed by said importance calculating means and said summary word candidate holding means~~;

similarity calculating means for calculating ~~a~~ similarity between said summary word list and a document stored in ~~a~~ said document database;

restricting condition examining means for examining whether ~~a~~ the document ~~in said document database~~ is adapted to a given restricting condition for narrowing down search targets or not; and

search result candidate holding means for holding results ~~searched~~ from said similarity calculating means and said restricting condition examining means.